

ELON

What brings you joy? 30 words limit

Eating my one-of-a-kind Peanut Butter and Jelly Dorito Sandwich. I know it sounds terrible, but somehow the combination just works.

We're in your hometown. Where should we eat and what should we order? 30 Words

Definitely go to Cafe Arabica and order their blueberry lemon coffee cake. The sweets are concocted fresh from scratch every day at this local gem.

Name three songs from your perfect playlist. 30 words

"How Does it Feel" by Untitled, "Redbone" by Childish Gambino, and "Halo" by Beyonce.

As you look into the future, what gives you hope? (200-250 Word Limit)

Space: the physical universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere, the world that lies beyond our world, the endless opportunity for exploration and the understanding of life itself. With recent scientific developments, space discovery has become a greater focus and more reachable than ever before. NASA's new telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope, is set to launch on Christmas of 2021 (if it does not keep getting delayed). Its observations will be instrumental for many new scientific discoveries, including studying exoplanet atmospheres and how they are formed. Beyond just research, space has been and will continue to be commercialized as well. The company Blue Origin has already begun taking civilians into space (if they have the money of course). If we integrate space travel into standard aeronautical transportation to fly from one point on Earth to another, goods and people could be transported across the globe at an astonishing pace. In the future, tourist attractions like space hotels and space cruises may also become a reality. New sports could be developed and played in space. People may flock to space for the ability to experience zero gravity, and the space launch and landing may become attractions themselves. All of these fascinating ideas could become a reality within this century. I desire to one day be able to experience space myself, and to visit space just as easily as I can visit a nearby city. I hope that in my lifetime, I will be able to witness the final frontier.

Common App Essay

Carpets

If I could magically snap my fingers and change the way that people see the world, I would change this: carpets.

A few years back, I had just returned home from school for summer break. My sister had taken a job at the local rec center, and I was home alone with *her* dog, a beautiful Dachshund-Yorkie mix named Velvet. Usually, my summer schedule requires that I always be on the move. With basketball and weightlifting consuming most of my time, I rarely have any days to just relax. But this day was an exception; I had nothing on my schedule. I had the entire day to myself, and I was going to use every second of it.

As a 6'5", 170-pound skinny boy, I planned to go to the gym and work out some muscles that I had not focused on during the week. I was on my way to the gym when I received a call from my sister: "Hey loser, I'm at work right now. I need you to take Velvet out because I forgot." I agreed to my sister's impolite request, but I was already in gym mode with headphones on and a protein shake in hand. Taking Velvet out right away would have disrupted my *flow*.

I headed to the gym for my workout session. But when I returned home and walked into my room, a freshly concocted, disgusting pee puddle greeted me from the middle of my carpeted floor. I felt nothing but regret and despair. Despite my best efforts, the stain did not let up. I wiped, scrubbed, brushed, soaked, and cried, but nothing worked.

The stain is still there to this day, but now, I am not embarrassed by it one bit. In fact, that stain holds the same value to me as a family heirloom. What, you may ask, is so important about that stain in my carpet? Well, carpets tell stories. We should see carpets for what they are: reminders of our past.

Not only does that carpet show what happened that summer day, but it also reminds me to always take the dog out. When I do not want to lift weights or work out for basketball because I am too sore, or when I want to procrastinate on a paper draft until the next day, or when I want

to put off chores, Velvet's pee stain warns me that these actions will always have consequences. That stain reminds me to never stop grinding, to never quit no matter how hard that goal gets, to push through demanding times no matter how stressful they are.

Unfortunately, not everyone sees the value in carpet stains. Many people place rugs down to cover up soiled carpet, or they drown their carpet in chemicals in the hopes of conquering the problem. Some people just buy a new carpet all together. Similarly, I used to hide my unusual hobbies and interests, including Nacho Cheese Dorito peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, only baking hearty desserts, and my insane passion for building new worlds with Legos, because I was afraid of being judged for them. Instead, I covered up my stains and showed people a fake version of me.

Now, thanks to my carpet, I have learned to unequivocally accept my stains. I understand that it is *okay* to express your emotions and passions that you would rather conceal. It is okay to show people who you are. It is okay to have unique ideas and tastes. Most importantly, it is okay to make mistakes, and then to *learn* from them.

The world needs to know that it is okay to show the stains on our carpets.